

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of noise filtering an image sequence (V1), comprising the steps of:

determining ~~(11)~~ statistics from a spatial spread of a set of original pixel values (P_t, M_i) in at least one image of the image sequence (V1); and

calculating ~~(14)~~ at least one filtered pixel value (P_t') from the set of original pixel values (P_t, M_i) obtained from the at least one image, wherein the original pixel values (P_t, M_i) are weighted ~~(13)~~ under control ~~(12,a)~~ of the statistics ~~(11)~~.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of noise filtering as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of calculating comprises the steps of:

weighting ~~(13)~~ the set of original pixel values (P_t, M_i) under control ~~(12,a)~~ of the statistics ~~(11)~~ to obtain a weighted set of pixel values (P_t, N_i); and

furnishing the weighted set of pixel values (P_t, N_i) to a static filter, in which the at least one filtered pixel value (P_t') is calculated from the weighted set of pixel values (P_t, N_i).

3. (Currently Amended) The method of noise filtering as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

determining a temporal spread (S_{temp}) of the set of original pixel values (P_t, M_i) .

4. (Currently Amended) The method of noise filtering as claimed in claim 1, wherein the spread (S) is a sum of absolute differences, a given absolute difference being obtained by subtracting an average pixel value from a given original pixel

5 value (P_t, M_i) .

5. (Currently Amended) The method of noise filtering as claimed in claim 1, wherein the set of original pixel values (P_t, M_i) include a central pixel value (P_t) and surrounding pixel values (M_i) , wherein as a result of the noise filtering, the

5 central pixel value (P_t) is replaced by the filtered pixel value (P_t') .

6. (Currently Amended)) The method of noise filtering as claimed in claim 2, wherein the set of weighted pixel values (P_t, N_i) is obtained by taking, for each pixel value in the set of original pixel values (P_t, M_i) , a combination of a portion α of said

5 each pixel value in the set of original pixel values (P_t, M_i) and a portion 1- α of a central pixel value (P_t).

7. (Currently Amended) The method of noise filtering as claimed in claim 1,

wherein the statistics ~~(11)~~ are furnished to a look-up table ~~(12)~~, ~~from which look up table (12)~~ a control signal (α) is
5 being obtained from said look-up table, ~~which said control signal~~ (α) ~~controls~~ controlling the weighting ~~(13)~~.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of noise filtering as claimed in claim 2,

wherein the at least one filtered pixel value (P_t') is obtained by calculating ~~(14)~~ a median of the weighted set of pixel
5 values (P_t, N_i).

9. (Currently Amended) The method of noise filtering as claimed in claim 2,

wherein the at least one filtered pixel value (P_t') is obtained by calculating ~~(14)~~ an average of the weighted set of
5 pixel values (P_t, N_i).

10. (Currently Amended) The method of noise filtering as claimed in claim 3,

wherein the spatial spread (S_{spat}) is calculated from spatially displaced original pixel values ~~(P_t, M_i)~~ in the set of
5 original pixel values $(P_t, M_i, P_{t1}, P_{t2})$; and

the temporal spread (S_{temp}) is calculated from temporally displaced original pixel values (P_t, P_{t1}, P_{t2}) in the set of original pixel values $(P_t, M_i, P_{t1}, P_{t2})$; and

weighting ~~(46)~~ the spatially displaced original pixel
10 values (P_t, M_i) under control ~~(43)~~ of the spatial spread (S_{spat}) and the temporally displaced original pixel values (P_t, P_{t1}, P_{t2}) under control ~~(44, 45)~~ of the temporal spread (S_{temp}).

11. (Currently Amended) The method of noise filtering as claimed in claim 10, wherein the weighted temporally displaced original pixel values (WP_1, WP_2) are divided to lessen their weight in the filtering ~~(47)~~.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of noise filtering as claimed in claim 10, wherein the temporally displaced original pixel values include two original pixel values (P_{t1}, P_{t2}) from

different fields in a same frame (F_0) and at least one original
5 pixel value of a previous frame (F_{-1}).

13. (Currently Amended) The method of noise filtering as
claimed in claim 12, wherein ~~filtered-said~~ temporally displaced
original pixel values are used rather than temporally displaced
~~original pixel values~~filtered.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of encoding ~~(1)~~ an image
sequence (V_1), comprising the steps of:

encoding a plurality of filtered images, wherein the
filtered images are

5 obtained by the steps of:

determining statistics from a spatial spread of a set of
original pixel values (P_t, M_i) in each image of the image sequence
(V_1); and

calculating a filtered pixel value (P_t') from a set of
10 original pixel values (P_t, M_i) obtained from each image, wherein the
original pixel values (P_t, M_i) are weighted ~~(13)~~ under control
~~(12, a)~~ of the statistics ~~(11)~~.

15. (Currently Amended) A device for noise filtering an image
sequence, the device comprising:

computing means ~~(11)~~ for determining statistics from a spatial spread of a set of original pixel values (P_t, M_i) in at

5 least one image of the image sequence (V_1); and

filtering means ~~(14)~~ for calculating at least one filtered pixel value (P_t') from a set of original pixel values (P_t, M_i)

obtained from the at least one image, wherein the original pixel values (P_t, M_i) are weighted ~~(13)~~ under control ~~(12,a)~~ of the

10 statistics~~-(11)~~.

16. (Currently Amended) A device for encoding ~~(1)~~ an image sequence (V_1), the device comprising:

receiving means for receiving filtered images, wherein the filtered images of the image sequence created by a device

5 comprising:

computing means ~~(11)~~ for determining statistics from a spatial spread of a set of original pixel values (P_t, M_i) in each image of the image sequence (V_1); and

10 filtering means ~~(14)~~ for calculating a filtered pixel value (P_t') from a the set of original pixel values (P_t, M_i) obtained from each image, wherein the original pixel values (P_t, M_i) are weighted ~~(13)~~ under control ~~(12,a)~~ of the statistics~~-(11)~~.